



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/617,959	07/11/2003	Wealthy Desai	030160 (9400-33)	4469
36072 7590 02/02/2010 AT&T Legal Department - MB Attn: Patent Docketing Room 2A-207 One AT&T Way Bedminster, NJ 07921				
EXAMINER				
LIU, CHIA-YI				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3695				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
02/02/2010		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

## Application No.

10/617,959

## Applicant(s)

DESAI, WEALTHY

## Examiner

CHIA-YI LIU

## Art Unit

3696

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 November 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-14, 31-33 and 49-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-14, 31-33 and 49-52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB06)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ ~~Notice of Informal Patent Application~~
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to an amendment submitted 11/06/2009. Applicant has amended Claims 11, 31 and 49. Claims 11-14, 31-33 and 49-52 are pending for Examination. Applicant's arguments filed 11/06/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 11-14 are rejected under 35 USC § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Based on Supreme Court precedent and recent Federal Circuit decisions, a § 101 process must (1) be tied to another statutory class (such as a particular apparatus) or (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or materials) to a different state or thing. If neither of these requirements is met by the claim, the method is not a patent eligible process under § 101 and should be rejected as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. To qualify as a § 101 statutory process, the claim should positively recite the other statutory class (the thing or product) to which it is tied, for example by identifying the apparatus that accomplishes the method steps, or positively recite the subject matter that is being transformed, for example by identifying the material that is being changed to a different state. (See *Diamond v. Diehr*, 450 U.S. 175, 184 (1981); *Parker v. Flook*, 437 U.S. 584, 588 n.9 (1978); *Gottschalk v. Benson*, 409 U.S. 63, 70 (1972); *Cochrane v. Deener*, 94 U.S. 780, 787-88 (1876)). There is an insufficient tie between the performed method steps and the processor circuit. The term "using" does not necessary require the circuit to perform the method. An example of a proper tie to another statutory class would be "electronically accessing by a programmed computer circuit." Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 31-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because they merely recite a computer program product for use with a computer. In order to be properly claimed, the computer program code must be embodied in a static medium and it must be computer- or machine-executable. It is not clear which computer or machine elements are being instructed by the recited "module/computer-readable program code". The word "module" means "part of a program that performs a distinct function." Claim 31 merely teaches a system comprises a module (a program) and does not recite any computer hardware component. It is recommended that claims 31-33 be amended to explicitly limit the computer program product to static media and it should be explicitly recited that

the computer program instructs a processor to perform the recited functionality. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 31-48 and 49-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. System/apparatus claims are defined by their structure elements and any corresponding functionality. "Module" and "computer-readable program code" do not impart structure.

Regarding Claims 11, 31 and 49, the phrases "credit/debit" render the claim indefinite because it is not clear whether "credit/debit" means credit or debit or both. Appropriate correction is required.

Regarding Claims 11, 31 and 49, the phrase "electronically accessing an electronically linked electronic image" renders the claim indefinite. The word "link" means "to join or connect." It is unclear what system/apparatus/machine does the "electronic linked image" link to. Appropriate correction or clarification is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11-14, 31-33, and 49-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Weibel (US 7,099,837 B1) in view of Applicant's Background of Invention,

Art Unit: 3696

further in view of Bricklin et al. (5,717,939), further in view of Thompson et al. (US 6,282,552 B1), further in view of Rabideau et al. (US 2002/0010664 A1) and further in view of Gropper (US 6,883,000 B1)

As per Claims 11, 31, 49

Weibel ('837) discloses

electronically linking the electronic image and the electronic invoice (the billing statement (=invoice, see column 3, line 5) and each associated advertisement copy may be electronically accessed through links to one another), see column 2, lines 16-18

Weibel ('837) teaches electronically accessing an electronically linked electronic image of an advertisement and an electronic invoice, see Abstract of Weibel, lines 11-13 (advertisement and page documents are associated with the billing statement and linked so that they may be accessed by the client) and column 2, lines 16-21 (electronically accessed through links) but fails to explicitly disclose granting access to the electronically linked electronic image and electronic invoice by the business directory publisher. Applicant admitted in the Background of invention that a CMR sells business directory advertisement to customers for the business directory publisher are well known to those having skill in the art and that the business directory publisher generate tear page (advertisement image) and send to the CMR along with an invoice, see Applicant's Background of Invention, lines 17-26. Since the CMR are granted access to the image and invoice by the business directory publisher in the traditional paper method, Official Notice [now admitted prior art] is taken it was old and well-known to grant access to information electronically. (It would have been obvious to grant the same person access to the same information electronically) Therefore, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Weibel's invention to include granting access to the electronically linked electronic image and electronic invoice by the business directory publisher. One would be motivated to do so for the benefit of allowing the business directory publisher to know how much was billed to his/her customer and for what advertisement.

Weibel ('837) teaches generating electronic invoice for an advertisement (creating digital document representing an invoice for printed advertisement), see column 6, lines 11-12, but fails to explicitly disclose generating a customer electronic invoice for the advertisement from the CMR electronic invoice. Applicant admitted in the Background of invention that CMRs are well known to

those having skill in the art and that a customer invoice is generated from the CMR invoice (The publisher sends the tear page to the CMR along with an invoice. The CMR may add a commission and generate its own invoice which is sent to the CMR's customer) Since the customer invoice can be generated from the CMR invoice in the traditional paper method, Official Notice [now admitted prior art] is taken that it is old and well-known in to generate invoice electronically. (It would have been obvious to generate the same customer invoice from the CMR invoice electronically.) Therefore, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Weibel's invention to include generating a customer electronic invoice for the advertisement from the CMR electronic invoice. One would be motivated to do so for the benefit of generating a new invoice by transferring data from an associated invoice and simply adding additional data related to the new invoice that's not in the old one, thereby speeding up the invoice creation process.

Weibel ('837) teaches granting electronic access to an advertising customer to the electronic image and customer electronic invoice that are electronically linked, see column 6, lines 7-18, but fails to explicitly disclose the advertising customer is a CMR customer. Applicant admitted in the Background of invention that CMRs are well known to those having skill in the art and that CMRs sell advertisements and send invoice to CMRs customers, see Applicant's Background of Invention, lines 17-26. Therefore, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Weibel's invention to include the advertising customer is a CMR customer. One would be motivated to do so for the benefit of allowing CMR customer to view the invoice and advertisement that are electronically linked so he/she could know how much to pay to CMR for the service.

Weibel ('837) teaches electronic invoice (digital document representing an invoice), see Claim 1 (e) of Weibel, but fails to explicitly disclose the CMR electronic invoice comprising an electronic spreadsheet having data fields therein. Bricklin ('939) teaches an electronic invoice comprising an electronic spreadsheet having data fields therein, see Fig 3 of Bricklin. Official Notice is taken that the type of electronic invoice does not affect the manipulative steps of the invention. Therefore, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Weibel's invention to include the CMR electronic invoice comprising an electronic spreadsheet having data fields therein. One would be motivated to do so for the benefit of calculating and editing invoice data more easily.

Weibel ('837) does not specifically disclose the advertisement is a business directory advertisement that was sold by a third party Customer Marketing Representative for a business directory publisher to a CMR customer and the type of invoice is a CMR electronic invoice for the business directory advertisement that was sold by the CMR to the CMR customer. Official Notice [now admitted prior art] is taken that the type of advertisement and invoice do not affect the manipulative steps of the invention. Therefore, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Weibel's invention to include the advertisement is a business directory advertisement that was sold by a third party Customer Marketing Representative for a business directory publisher to a CMR customer and the type of invoice is a CMR electronic invoice for the business directory advertisement that was sold by the CMR to the CMR customer. One would be motivated to do so for the benefit of creating billing statement for publishing business automatically and digitally to make for easier storage, retrieval and delivery.

Weibel ('837) fails to explicitly disclose the customer electronic invoice is generated by adding an additional data field to the data fields in the electronic spreadsheet and/or by altering a data field in the electronic spreadsheet. Bricklin ('939) teaches an electronic invoice comprising an electronic spreadsheet having modifiable data fields therein, see Fig 3 of Bricklin. Thompson ('552) teaches generating invoice (see figure 2 (210)) and changing electronic invoice by modifying/altering fields, see at least Abstract of Thompson. Therefore, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Weibel's invention to include the customer electronic invoice is generated by adding an additional data field to the data fields in the electronic spreadsheet and/or by altering a data field in the electronic spreadsheet. One would be motivated to do so for the benefit of modifying invoice data more easily.

Weibel ('837) teaches generating an electronic invoice for the advertisement (creating digital document representing an invoice for printed advertisement), see column 6, lines 11-12, but fails to explicitly disclose sending an electronic CMR credit/debit form to the business directory publisher that indicates that an error was made in the CMR electronic invoice for the advertisement in response to detecting the error. Rabideau ('664) teaches a debit form that indicates that an error was made in the invoice (error notification is often called an invoice or debit memo), see paragraph 0005, lines 9-12. It is obvious to send error message in response to detecting the error. Both Weibel and Rabideau are directed toward invoice transaction system. Official Notice

Art Unit: 3696

[now admitted prior art] is taken that it is old and well known to send out forms electronically. Furthermore, applicant admitted in the Background of Invention that it is well known in the art that Business directory publisher sends invoice to the CMR, see Background of Invention, lines 16-26 and Applicant admits in the Specification page 11-12 that "CMR credit/debit memo and electronic CMR adjustment form are commonly used in conventional business directory advertising. Therefore, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Weibel's invention to include sending an electronic CMR credit/debit form to the business directory publisher that indicates that an error was made in the CMR electronic invoice for the advertisement in response to detecting the error. One would be motivated to do so for the benefit of allowing the business directory publisher to know that an error has been made in the invoice so he/she can calculate the value of the loss and request payment.

Weibel ('837) teaches generating an electronic image of an advertisement (creating digital document representing printed advertisement image), see column 6, lines 7-8, but fails to explicitly disclose sending an electronic CMR adjustment form to the business directory publisher that indicates that an error was made in the business directory advertisement that was sold by the CMR to the CMR customer for the business directory publisher in response to detecting error. Applicant admitted in the Background of invention that a CMR sells advertisement to customers for the business directory publisher are well known to those having skill in the art, see Applicant's Background of Invention, lines 17-26. Gropper ('000) teaches ads in digital form, see column 36, lines 32-33 and displaying a message indicating errors (Z errors) and provide the user opportunity to resolve errors, correct incomplete data transmissions, see column 32, lines 40-44. Furthermore, applicant admits in the Specification page 11-12 that "CMR credit/debit memo and electronic CMR adjustment form are commonly used in conventional business directory advertising. (Examiner notes that the type of advertisement does not affect the inventive steps of this invention, therefore is not given patentable weight) Therefore, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Weibel's invention to include sending an electronic CMR adjustment form to the business directory publisher that indicates that an error was made in the business directory advertisement that was sold by the CMR to the CMR customer for the business directory publisher. One would be motivated to do so for the benefit of allowing the business directory publisher to make corrections and fix the errors in the advertisements.

As per Claims 12, 32, 50



Art Unit: 3696

Weibel ('837) teaches granting electronic access to an advertising customer to the electronic image and customer electronic invoice that are electronically linked, see column 6, lines 7-18, and accessing digital documents through hypertext links, see column 2, lines 4-6, but fails to explicitly disclose sending an email to the CMR customer including a hyperlink to the electronic image and electronic invoice that are electronically linked. Applicant admitted in the Background of invention that CMRs are well known to those having skill in the art and that CMRs sell advertisements and send invoice to CMRs customers, see Applicant's Background of Invention, lines 17-26. Official Notice [now admitted prior art] is taken that it is old and well known in the art to send hyperlink through email. (For example, Yahoo Mail allows user to insert hyperlinks when composing an email.) Therefore, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Weibel's invention to include sending an email to the CMR customer including a hyperlink to the electronic image and electronic invoice that are electronically linked. One would be motivated to do so for the benefit of allowing the customer to access the electronic invoice image to pay for the bill.

As per Claims 13, 33, 51

Weibel ('837) teaches granting electronic access to an advertising customer to the electronic image and customer electronic invoice that are electronically linked, see column 6, lines 7-18, but fails to explicitly disclose grant electronic access by sending an email to the CMR/MR including a userid and/or password that may be used to electronically access the electronic image and electronic invoice that are electronically linked. Applicant admitted in the Background of invention that CMRs are well known to those having skill in the art and that CMRs sell advertisements and send invoice to CMRs customers, see Applicant's Background of Invention, lines 17-26. Since the advertisement image and invoice are sent to the CMR customer in the traditional paper method, it would have been obvious to grant access to the same information to the CMR customer electronically. Official Notice [now admitted prior art] is taken that it is old and well known to send userID and password to someone to allow the person to gain access to restricted information and it is also old and well known to send electronic text over computer network through an email. Therefore, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Weibel's invention to include grant electronic access by sending an email to the CMR customer including a userid and/or password that may be used to electronically access the electronic image and customer electronic invoice that are electronically linked. One would be

motivated to do so for the benefit of allowing the CMR/MR to access the electronic invoice image to pay for the bill.

As per Claims 14, 52

Weibel ('837) teaches generating a Portable Document Format (PDF) file that contains the image of the advertisement (provides a digital representation of pages or ad images in PDF format), see column 5, lines 6-8, but fails to explicitly disclose the PDF is read only. Official Notice [now admitted prior art] is taken that is it old and well known to generate read-only PDF file. Therefore, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Weibel's invention to include generating a read-only Portable Document Format (PDF) file that contains the image of the advertisement. One would be motivated to do so for the benefit of preventing the customer from accidentally click on the image and change the advertisement information.

Also, Examiner notes that, as per MPEP § 2144.03(C), the statements of Official Notice made in the art rejection that have not been traversed have been established as admitted prior.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant argued that the rejection of Claims 11-14 under 101 should be withdrawn because the Claim 11 now includes "using a programmed computer processor circuit". The Examiner disagrees. There is an insufficient tie between the performed method steps and the processor circuit. The term "using" does not necessary require the circuit to perform the method. (An example of a proper tie to another statutory class would be "electronically accessing by a programmed computer circuit). Therefore, applicant's argument is not persuasive.

Applicant argues that "even under the broadest reasonable interpretation, Claim 31 is directed not to a computer program product for use with a computer, but rather to a system including computer hardware components" and therefore the 101 rejection for Claims 31-33 should be withdrawn. The Examiner disagrees. The word "module" means "part of a program that performs a distinct function." Claim 31 merely teaches a system comprises a module (a program) and does not recite any computer hardware component. The paragraph in the Specification as cited by the applicant includes language "an entirely software embodiment or an embodiment combining software and hardware aspects, which may be collectively referred to herein as a "circuit" or "module"". By using the term "or", one of ordinary skill in the art would understand "module" to be "an entirely software embodiment". Therefore, applicant's argument is not persuasive.

Applicant argues that "module" is defined by the Specification to be "an embodiment combining software and hardware" and therefore it imparts structure and

that the 112 rejection for Claims 31-48 should be withdrawn. The Examiner disagrees. The paragraph in the Specification as cited by the applicant includes language "an entirely software embodiment or an embodiment combining software and hardware aspects, which may be collectively referred to herein as a "circuit" or "module"". By using the term "or", one of ordinary skill in the art would understand "module" to be "an entirely software embodiment". Therefore, applicant's argument is not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Claim 49's recitation of "computer usable storage medium having computer-readable program code embodied in the medium" does impart sufficient structure to satisfy the definiteness requirements". The Examiner disagrees. The body of the claim merely teaches computer-readable program code that is configured to perform steps and it is unclear what computer component is used to performed the recited steps. Therefore, applicant's argument is not persuasive. Furthermore, Applicant is reminded language that suggests or makes optional but does not require steps to be performed or does not limit a claim to a particular structure does not limit the scope of a claim or claim limitation (MPEP 2106 IIC). "Configured to" as recited in Claims 31 and 49 are intended usage language that does not limit the scope of the claim. For example, any prior art that teaches "a computer-readable program code" is sufficient to reject Claim 49 because all the language after "configured to" do not limit the scope of the claim.

Applicant argues that the term "credit/debit form" as recited by Claims 11, 31 and 49 is understood to refer to either or both of the named alternatives and one of skill in the art would understand to refer to a type of accounting form on which either credits or debits or both may be indicated or authorized and therefore the 112 2<sup>nd</sup> rejection should be withdrawn. The Examiner disagrees. The punctuation "/" (forward slash) is often used to represent the concept "or", especially in instruction books. Its other common usage represents the concept of "and." It is unclear whether the "credit/debit" means "credit and debit" or "credit or debit." The use of the terms "and" and "or" encompass two different embodiments of the claimed invention. This renders the claim unclear. Therefore, applicant's argument is not persuasive.

Applicant argues that "the specification, in describing some embodiments, makes clear that the electronic image and the electronic invoice are electronically linked such as, for example, by generating a hyperlink to the electronic image in the electronic invoice" and therefore the phrase "electronically accessing an electronically linked electronic image" as recited in Claims 11, 31 and 49 does not render the claims indefinite. The Examiner disagrees. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). The language of the claim is confusing and ambiguous. One would not have understood what system/apparatus/machine the "electronically linked image" links to from the claim language. Therefore, applicant's argument is not persuasive.

Applicant argues that incorporation of a spreadsheet described by Bricklin into the system described by Weibel would destroy the intended operability of the Weibel system. The Examiner disagrees. In response to applicant's argument, the test for obviousness is not whether the features of a secondary reference may be bodily incorporated into the structure of the primary reference; nor is it that the claimed invention must be expressly suggested in any one or all of the references. Rather, the test is what the combined teachings of the references would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981). Weibel teaches electronic invoice and Bricklin teaches an electronic invoice comprising an electronic spreadsheet having data fields. The simple substitution of one known element (Weibel's electronic invoice) for another (Bricklin's electronic invoice comprising an electronic spreadsheet having data fields) producing a predictable result renders the claim obvious. It would have been obvious to modify Weibel's invention to include the CMR electronic invoice comprises an electronic spreadsheet having data fields therein. One would have been motivated to do so for the benefit of calculating and editing invoice data more easily. Therefore, Applicant's argument is not persuasive.

Applicant's argues Weibel teaches away from the use of an electronic spreadsheet for an invoice. The Examiner disagrees. Weibel teaches creating a digital document representing an invoice" and the simple substitution of one known element (Weibel's electronic invoice) for another (Bricklin's electronic invoice comprising an electronic spreadsheet having data fields) producing a predictable result renders the claim obvious. Weibel does not say the electronic invoice can not be substituted to an electronic spreadsheet and therefore Applicant's argument is not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the cited portions of Gropper contain no disclosure or suggestion of "sending an electronic CMP adjustment form...that indicates that an error was made in the business directory advertisement...in response to detecting an error" and therefore it would not been obvious to modify Weibel's art to include "sending an electronic CMR adjustment form to the business directory publisher that indicates that an error was made in the business directory advertisement that was sold by the CMR to the CMR customer for the business directory publisher." The Examiner disagrees. Weibel ('837) teaches generating an electronic image of an advertisement, see column 6, lines 7-8, but fails to explicitly disclose sending an electronic CMR adjustment form to the business directory publisher that indicates that an error was made in the business directory advertisement that was sold by the CMR to the CMR customer for the business directory publisher in response to detecting error. Applicant admitted in the Background of invention that a CMR sells advertisement to customers for the business directory publisher are well known to those having skill in the art, see Applicant's Background of Invention, lines 17-26. Gropper ('000) teaches ads in digital form, see column 36, lines 32-33 and displaying a message indicating errors (Z errors) and provide the user opportunity to resolve errors, correct incomplete data transmissions, see column 32, lines 40-44. Furthermore, applicant admits in the Specification page 11-

12 that "CMR credit/debit memo and electronic CMR adjustment form are commonly used in conventional business directory advertising. Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify Weibel's invention to include sending an electronic CMR adjustment form to the business directory publisher that indicates that an error was made in the business directory advertisement that was sold by the CMR to the CMR customer for the business directory publisher. One would be motivated to do so for the benefit of allowing the business directory publisher to make corrections and fix the errors in the advertisements. Therefore, Applicant's argument is not persuasive.

Applicant argues that "the invoice or debit memo" referenced by Rabideau does not perform the same function as the electronic CMR credit/debit form as cited by Claim 11. The Examiner disagrees. The credit/debit form of Claim 11 is used to indicate an error made in an electronic invoice. Rabideau's invoice/debit memo is also used to indicate an error, see paragraph 0005, (an error notification called an invoice/debit memo). Furthermore, Applicant admits in the Specification page 11-12 that "CMR credit/debit memo (1080 form) is commonly used in conventional business directory advertising." Since a credit/debit memo (1080 form) is old and well known, it would have been obvious to modify Weibel's invention to include a form that indicates an error was made as taught by Radideau or Applicant's Specification. Therefore, Applicant's argument is not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Claims 11, 31 and 49 are not obvious because a large number of old elements are combined in the independent claims in a unique way to provide unique advantages and therefore the Claims are allowable. The Examiner disagrees. Claims 11, 31 and 49 are merely a combination of old and well known elements that creates predictable result when combined. Therefore, Applicant's argument is not persuasive.

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHIA-YI LIU whose telephone number is (571)270-1573. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur alternating Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, HANI KAZIMI can be reached on (571) 272-6745. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CHIA-YI LIU  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3696

/Hani M. Kazimi/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3691